

REMARKS

Claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12 and 16 are amended. No new matter is added because the claim amendments are supported by the claims as originally filed. Claims 1-11, 13 and 17 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1) since the amendments cancel rejected subject matter, thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1) is thus respectfully requested.

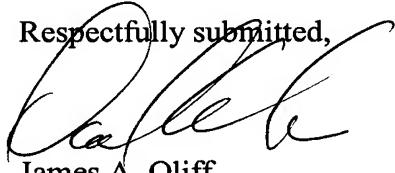
The Office Action, in paragraphs 6 and 7, indicates that claims 13 and 17 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability, and respectfully submit that the amendments to the pending claims are taken in view of this indication of allowability. Specifically, claims 12 and 16 are amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 17 respectively, thereby rendering these claims, and the claims depending therefrom allowable for the reasons indicated in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-4, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2002/0125324 A1 to Yavid et al. (hereinafter "Yavid") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,638 to Coulter et al. (hereinafter "Coulter"). The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 5-7,

10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid in view of Coulter as applied to claims 1-4, 12 and 16 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,846 B1 to Westerman et al. (hereinafter "Westerman"). The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid in view of Coulter as applied to claims 1-4, 12 and 16 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,198 B1 to Feinstein. The cancellation of claims 1-11, and the amendments to claims 12 and 16 to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 17 respectively therein, render the above rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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